

AMSONIA LUDOVICIANA (APOCYNACEAE) NEW TO THE FLORA OF TEXAS (U.S.A.)

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ABSTRACT

Amsonia ludoviciana Vail, Apocynaceae is reported new to Texas based on collections from Newton County and represents the western most record of the species. The leaves are densely hairy on the abaxial surface, typical of this species.

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Amsonia ludoviciana Vail, Apocynaceae se cita como nueva para Texas basada en colecciones de Newton County y representa la cita más occidental de la especie. Las hojas son densamente pelosas en el envés, típico de esta especie.

Our collections of Louisiana bluestar (*Amsonia ludoviciana* Vail) from Newton County, Texas are apparently the first report of this species for the state. It is not listed for Texas (Correll & Johnston 1970; Hatch et al 1990; Jones et al 1997; Turner et al 2003). During fieldwork for the Flora of Newton County project, we have collected specimens of the genus *Amsonia*. A sterile population (Site one) of *Amsonia* was discovered in west central Newton County in November 2009 (Allen 21841) and at a different location (Site two), a fruiting specimen was collected on June 25, 2010 (Allen 21985). Site two was revisited on April 7, 2011 and a collection of the population in flower, Allen 22212 was made. No flowering specimens have been collected at Site one. Site two is approximately 2.5 km north of site one. The leaf blades from plants at both locations are densely hairy on the abaxial surface and at site two, the flowers are hairy, both typical characteristics of *A. ludoviciana*. This species is also reported from Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana (USDA NRCS 2014). In Louisiana, it is reported from twelve parishes including three (Calcasieu, Sabine, and Vernon) adjacent to Texas. *A. ludoviciana* is ranked G3 and S2 in Georgia, S3 in Louisiana, and might be extirpated in Mississippi (Natureserve 2014). The counties in Georgia are Rockdale, DeKalb, Gwinnett, and Walton. Associated herbaceous species include *Dichantherium acuminatum* (Sw.) Gould & C.A. Clark and *Pteridium aquilinum* (L.) Kuhn and associated woody species include *Cyrilla racemiflora* L., *Ilex opaca* Ait., *I. vomitoria* Ait., *Morella cerifera* (L.) Small, and *Nyssa biflora* Walt. Our collection is the western most record of this species in the United States.

Voucher specimens for *Amsonia ludoviciana*: **TEXAS. Newton Co.:** site 1, forest, off County Road 3107 ca 0.1 mi W of Texas 87 and ca 7.5 mi S of Bleakwood, 11 Nov 2011, Charles Allen and Brian Early 21841 (LSU); site two, forest, off Texas 82 at State Forest ca. 3 mi W of Texas 87 and 5 mi SW of Bleakwood, 25 Jun 2010, Charles Allen and Krisztian Megyeri 21985, (BRIT); same location, 7 Apr 2011, Charles Allen 22212 (BRIT, TEX-LL).

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